

ALBERT MERTZ

FROM THE SUSANNE MERTZ COLLECTION. PART 1 (RED+BLUE)

Opening: 11.01.2013, 5-8 PM

Duration: 11.01. -26.01.2013

The "RED+BLUE" in the headline reprises the title of a Mertz exhibition held at Nikolaj Church 30 years ago. According to Mertz, this exhibition was the first presentation of his red/blue idea in an extended form. The works were no longer merely a rectangle with a red and a blue square. Mertz' desire to create a neutral image as the most open work of art wasn't enough anymore. Instead he wanted to make "... a modernist tradition burst " in more than 100 works of red/blue - using a variety of configurations - in order to provide " ... an image that speaks to contemporary man."

Now, 3 decades later, the works of Albert Mertz still "speaks to contemporary man". And the interest for his oeuvre is steadily growing both at home and abroad. Similar to the 1983 exhibition, the works from Mertz' daughter's collection presented at Galleri Tom Christoffersen, will show the broad range of red/blue works. A few from the exhibition at Nikolaj Church are included - mixed with a number of early and late red/blue works. The earliest were created in the second half of the 1950s, where the red/blue project was still relatively unformulated. The latest works from the 1990s are among the last Mertz created. In spite of the limited red/blue palette, a great variety of ideas are presented through the 35 years of paintings, gouaches, collages and sculptures presented at this exhibition. Juxtaposed, the variety of works creates a perfect framework for the story about an incredibly hard-working artist with a well-defined and unique project.

The exhibition is the first of two Mertz exhibitions at Galleri Tom Christoffersen in 2013. Together they're intended to provide an insight into an extraordinary and very private collection of works by an artist whose importance in the Danish art history seems increasingly obvious. Many of the works has never before been shown publicly.

Deepest thanks Susanne Mertz.

Christian Foghmar, curator

Albert Mertz (1920-1990) dropped out of the Royal Danish Art Academy as a youngster in 1938 but was the last several years of his life professor at the same institution 1979-90. Mertz is recognized for his art critics, his experimental films and in his work as a painter. He was co-founder of the Linien II in 1947 and he represented Denmark at the 21st Sao Paulo Biennale, Brazil in 1991, a year after his death. Albert Mertz is represented in all major Danish art museums and in major collections such as Daimler Art Collection. He received both Eckersberg Medal (1964) and Thorvaldsen Medal (1988).